

Ecumenical Info: Faith and Life  
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Faith is an amazing part of true human life. It is like a spiritual hunger in the human soul. Our appetites may be satisfied in a variety of ways but the real challenge is finding a healthy diet. We can easily grab the bag of spiritual junk food but over time we pay the price. In a spiritual way we can do the same, feed our faith with the junk food of ignorance, prejudices and narrow mindedness.

In March the Jewish-Catholic Colloquium hosted a spiritual feast of healthy portions of adult faith. Marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II's document on inter-religious dialogue (Nostra Aetate), the colloquium was a historic moment. For the first time Jewish, Catholic and Muslim speakers and participants gathered in a synagogue to look at the future of Abraham's children. It was a new moment and the record attendance suggests the need for further dialogue. Rabbi Art Flicker of B'nai Israel, Mr. Faisal Nabulsi of the Islamic Center, and Fr. Christopher Zuger of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church spoke with such respect and understanding of our common heritage, one that is deeply rooted in faith in God. They also did not ignore the differences that make us each distinct or the painful histories that we have all endured and inflicted upon one another.

In an age when the world is becoming a very small neighborhood we need to better understand one another. This requires a maturity of Faith that can hold on to one's own beliefs while allowing God to be at work in other great religions. Catholics often narrowly hear the words of Jesus when he said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" to mean that my way is the way. We must all follow Christ's way to truth and life. Jesus himself recognized in the Samaritan woman and the Good Samaritan a Faith surpassing many in Israel. It is this larger sense of Faith that Christ calls us to. One that cherishes our own Faith but one which can recognize in the Religions of Abraham others who walk by Faith.